

Magistrate Judge Brian A. Tsuchida

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

DEBORAH BELIFE,

Plaintiff,

v.

JENNIFER B. HIGGINS, *et al.*,<sup>1</sup>

Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-02123-BAT

STIPULATED MOTION TO HOLD  
CASE IN ABEYANCE AND ORDER

Noted for Consideration:  
January 29, 2025

Plaintiff and Defendants, by and through their counsel of record, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6 and Local Rules 7(d)(1), 10(g) and 16, hereby jointly stipulate and move to stay these proceedings until May 7, 2025. Plaintiff brought this litigation pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act and Mandamus Act seeking, *inter alia*, to compel U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) to schedule an interview and adjudicate her asylum application. Defendants’ response to the Complaint is currently due on March 7, 2025. The parties are currently working towards a resolution to this litigation. For good cause, the parties request that the Court hold the case in abeyance until May 7, 2025.

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 25(d), Defendants substitute U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) Acting Director Jennifer B. Higgins for Ur M. Jaddou.

1 Courts have “broad discretion” to stay proceedings. *Clinton v. Jones*, 520 U.S. 681, 706  
2 (1997). “[T]he power to stay proceedings is incidental to the power inherent in every court to  
3 control the disposition of the causes on its docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for  
4 counsel, and for litigants.” *Landis v. N. Am. Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936); *see also* Fed. R. Civ.  
5 P. 1.

6 With additional time, this case may be resolved without the need of further judicial  
7 intervention. USCIS has scheduled Plaintiff’s asylum interview for February 6, 2025. USCIS  
8 agrees to diligently work towards completing the adjudication within 90 days of the interview,  
9 absent unforeseen or exceptional circumstances that would require additional time for  
10 adjudication. If the adjudication is not completed within that time, USCIS will provide a status  
11 report to the Court. Plaintiff will submit all supplemental documents and evidence, if any, to  
12 USCIS seven to ten days prior to the interview date. Plaintiff recognizes that failure to submit  
13 documents prior to the interview may require the interview to be rescheduled and the  
14 adjudication delayed. If needed, Plaintiff will bring an interpreter to the interview, otherwise the  
15 interview will need to be rescheduled and the adjudication delayed. Once the application is  
16 adjudicated, Plaintiff will dismiss the case with each party to bear their own litigation costs and  
17 attorneys’ fees. Accordingly, the parties request this abeyance to allow USCIS to conduct  
18 Plaintiff’s asylum interview and then process her asylum application.

19 As additional time is necessary for this to occur, the parties request that the Court hold  
20 the case in abeyance until May 7, 2025. The parties will submit a status update on or before May  
21 7, 2025.

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1 DATED this 30th day of January, 2025.

2 Respectfully submitted,

3 TESSA M. GORMAN  
4 United States Attorney

NIMER LAW LLC

s/ Michelle R. Lambert  
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*Attorney for Plaintiff*

10 *Attorneys for Defendants*

11 *I certify that this memorandum contains 395*  
12 *words, in compliance with the Local Civil Rules.*

**ORDER**

The case is held in abeyance until **May 7, 2025**. The parties shall submit a status update on or before May 7, 2025. It is so **ORDERED**.

DATED this 30th day of January, 2025.



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BRIAN A. TSUCHIDA  
United States Magistrate Judge